



## Abortion is still consuming U.S. politics and courts 2 years after a Supreme Court draft was leaked

By GEOFF MULVIHILL  
Associated Press

Two years after a leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court opinion signaled that the nation's abortion landscape was about to shift dramatically, the issue is still consuming the nation's courts, legislatures and political campaigns — and changing the course of lives.

On Wednesday, a ban on abortion after the first six weeks of pregnancy, often before women realize they're pregnant, took effect in Florida, echoing laws in two other states. In Arizona, meanwhile, lawmakers voted to repeal a total ban on abortion dating back to 1864, decades before Arizona became a state. Also this week, the Kansas Legislature increased funding for anti-abortion centers, while advocates in South Dakota submitted the required number of signatures for a ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution.



People protest about abortion, Friday, June 24, 2022, outside the Supreme Court in Washington.

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# Abortion is still consuming U.S. politics and courts 2 years after a Supreme Court draft was leaked

Continued from Front

The status of abortion in states across the country has changed constantly, with lawmakers passing measures and courts ruling on challenges to them. Currently, 14 states are enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with limited exceptions. Most Democratic-led states, meanwhile, have taken steps to preserve or expand access.

"Some of it's exactly what we knew would happen," said David Cohen, a professor at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University who studies abortion policy, "and others have been big surprises that have put, frankly, the anti-abortion movement on their heels."

Although more than 20 states have begun enforcing abortion bans of varying degrees since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, studies have found that the number of monthly abortions nationally is about the same — or higher — than it was before the ruling. Asked to weigh in on the emotional debate, voters have supported the position favored by abortion



Anti-Abortion demonstrators protest outside of the Supreme Court during a rally, March 26, 2024, in Washington.

rights advocates on all seven statewide ballot measures since then.

The Supreme Court's decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case was released officially on June 24, 2022, upending nearly 50 years of abortion being legal nationwide. But the world caught a glimpse of it about six weeks earlier, on May 2, after a news outlet published a leaked draft.

"With the *Dobbs* decision,

the will of the people is now able to be adhered to," said Stephen Billy, vice president of state affairs for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. He said abortion rights supporters have amplified uncertainty in laws — especially over whether abortion is allowed in medical emergencies: "They've tried to sow political division just to advance their policy agenda," he said.

At the time *Politico* published the leaked draft,

Amanda Zurawski was undergoing fertility treatment and was about two weeks away from learning she was finally pregnant.

The Austin, Texas, woman had always supported abortion rights, and was mad that the right to abortion was on the verge of disappearing. But she didn't expect a direct impact in her life.

That changed months later when she was denied an abortion despite a prema-

ture rupture of membranes, which can lead to dangerous internal bleeding. Days later, she was diagnosed with sepsis, a life-threatening reaction to infection. Her daughter, Willow, was ultimately aborted, but Zurawski nearly died in the process because of the delay.

She emerged from the experience an activist.

"I thought I would be a new mom with a newborn," she said in an interview. "Instead, I was in Tallahassee, Florida, meeting the vice president."

Zurawski has been a plaintiff in a court challenge seeking to clarify Texas abortion law and has spoken about her experience before Congress and across the country. She recently left her tech job to spend the next several months supporting abortion rights and President Joe Biden's reelection campaign.

"I'm definitely somebody who wants to fight for justice," she said. "This is not the path that I would have guessed."

Zurawski's widely publicized experience is a reflection of the central role abortion has assumed on the political stage during this highly charged election year. □

## Jill Biden is hosting a White House 'state dinner' to honor America's 2024 teachers of the year



First lady Jill Biden waves to the crowd as she takes the stage during the annual First Ladies Luncheon at the JW Marriott Grand Rapids, Mich., Friday, April 26, 2024.

Associated Press

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — First lady Jill Biden was opening

the White House on Thursday to more than 50 of America's best educators, hosting the 2024 national and state teachers of the year at a fancy dinner to recognize them for their commitment to students and excellence in the classroom.

The teachers typically attend a White House ceremony every year after their selection by an organization that represents elementary and secondary school educators. (They did not visit during the coronavirus pandemic.)

But Jill Biden, who teaches English and writing at Northern Virginia Community College, was putting a new twist

on the annual event by hosting them on Thursday for a teachers' "state dinner" instead.

She announced the change during a nationally televised appearance in April with Missy Testerman, the 2024 National Teacher of the Year. Testerman is an English as a second language teacher at Rogersville City School in Rogersville, Tennessee.

"It's one of my favorite events at the White House when we bring in the teachers of the year and we celebrate them every year," the first lady said at the time.

A White House state dinner is a diplomatic tool selec-

tively wielded by presidents to highlight cooperation from close U.S. allies. Key features include a pomp-filled welcome ceremony for the visiting head of state, face time with the president and a glitzy, black-tie dinner with hundreds of guests, including titans from the worlds of politics, business and Hollywood. Teachers were getting a stripped down version.

This year's State Teachers of the Year include those from 49 states, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense. Florida did not participate. □



# About 4 in 10 Americans see China as an enemy, a Pew report shows. That's a five-year high

By **DIDI TANG**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — About 4 in 10 Americans now label China as an enemy, up from a quarter two years ago and reaching the highest level in five years, according to an annual Pew Research Center survey released Wednesday. Half of Americans think of China as a competitor, and only 6% consider the country a partner, according to the report. The findings come as the Biden administration is seeking to stabilize U.S.-China relations to avoid miscalculations that could result in clashes, while still trying to counter the world's second-largest economy on issues from Russia's war in Ukraine to Taiwan and human rights. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen have both recently visited China in the administration's latest effort to "responsibly" manage the competition with Beijing. Despite those overtures, President Joe Biden has been competing with former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee in November's election, on being tough on China. The Pew report, which is drawn from an April 1-7 survey of a sample of 3,600 U.S. adults, found that roughly half



Flags of the U.S. and China sit in a room where U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with China's Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Friday, April 26, 2024, in Beijing, China.

**Associated Press**

of Americans think limiting China's power and influence should be a top U.S. foreign policy priority. Only 8% don't think it should be a priority at all. For the fifth year in a row, about eight in 10 Americans report an unfavorable view of China, the Pew report said. "Today, 81% of U.S. adults see the country unfavorably, including 43% who hold a very unfavorable opinion. Chinese President Xi Jinping receives

similarly negative ratings," the report said. About eight in 10 Americans say they have little or no confidence in Xi to do the right thing regarding world affairs. About 10% said they have never heard of him. American attitudes toward China have turned largely critical after the U.S. launched a trade war against China in 2018 and since the emergence of COVID-19, which was first reported in China.

Beijing's human rights record, its closeness to Russia and its policies toward Taiwan and Hong Kong also have left Americans with negative views of the country, according to Pew's previous analyses. At the same time, the U.S. government has been overt about competing with China on economic and diplomatic issues. Following that, 42% of Americans say China is an enemy

of the U.S., the highest level since 2021, when Pew began asking the question. The share is much larger among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, Pew said, with 59% of them describing China as an enemy, compared with 28% of Democrats and those leaning Democratic. Older Americans, conservative Republicans and those with a sour view of the U.S. economy are more critical of China and more likely to consider the country an enemy, the report said. "Americans also see China more negatively when they think China's influence in the world has gotten stronger in recent years or when they think China has a substantial amount of influence on the U.S. economy," said Christine Huang, a Pew research associate. "Even pessimism about the U.S. economy is related to how Americans evaluate China: Those who think the economic situation in the U.S. is bad are more likely to see China unfavorably and to see it as an enemy," she added. Pew said a nationally representative sample of 3,600 respondents filled out online surveys and that the margin of error was plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. □

# Senators want limits on the government's use of facial recognition technology for airport screening

By **REBECCA SANTANA**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A bipartisan group of senators is pushing for restrictions on the use of facial recognition technology by the Transportation Security Administration, saying they are concerned about travelers' privacy and civil liberties. In a letter on Thursday, the group of 14 lawmakers called on Senate leaders to use the upcoming reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration as a vehicle to limit TSA's use of the technology so Congress can put in place some oversight. "This technology poses signifi-

cant threats to our privacy and civil liberties, and Congress should prohibit TSA's development and deployment of facial recognition tools until rigorous congressional oversight occurs," the senators wrote. The effort, led by Sens. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., John Kennedy, R-La., and Roger Marshall, R-Kan., "would halt facial recognition technology at security checkpoints, which has proven to improve security effectiveness, efficiency, and the passenger experience," TSA said in a statement. The technology is currently in use at 84 airports around

the country and is planned to expand in the coming years to the roughly 430 covered by TSA. The FAA reauthorization is one of the last must-pass bills of this Congress. The agency regulates airlines and aircraft manufacturers and manages the nation's airspace. TSA, which is part of the Homeland Security Department, has been rolling out the facial recognition technology at select airports in a pilot project. Travelers put their driver's license into a slot that reads the card or they place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on



The Transportation Security Administration's new facial recognition technology is seen at a Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport security checkpoint, April 26, 2023, in Glen Burnie, Md.

**Associated Press**

a screen about the size of an iPad that captures their image and compares it to their ID. □



# Consumer groups push Congress to uphold automatic refunds for airline passengers

By **DAVID KOENIG**  
AP Airlines Writer

Consumer groups are pushing Congress to uphold automatic refunds for airline passengers whose flights are canceled or delayed for several hours.

Just last week, the Transportation Department announced a rule requiring airlines to pay quick and automatic refunds. President Joe Biden touted the rule, posting on X this week, "It's time airline passengers got the cash refunds they're owed, without having to jump through hoops." But eight words in a 1,069-page bill that the Senate began debating Wednesday would keep the burden for refunds on consumers. The bill says airlines must pay refunds only "upon written or electronic request of the passenger."

Consumer advocates say travelers will lose money without automatic refunds. "How many average air travelers know what the (refund) rules are? How many of them know how to go about filing a claim?" said William McGee, a consumer advocate at the American Economic Liberties Project, a group skeptical of large corporations, including airlines. "The percentages are so low that the airlines sit on a tremen-



A United Airlines flight information screen displays flight information, including canceled flights, at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Jan. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

dous amount of money that is never refunded because nobody asks."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said the bill's wording around refunds "would be a gift to the airlines, who know many travelers won't have the time or resources to navigate the bureaucratic process they designed."

The eight words are not new. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., included them in the bill she introduced last June to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administra-

tion programs for five years, and an amendment to strip them out failed in the Senate Commerce Committee, which Cantwell chairs. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said this week that his department has good legal authority for its rule on automatic refunds. However, John Breyault, an advocate with the National Consumers League, said the language in the new bill could make it easier for airlines to block automatic refunds in court. Airlines for America, a

trade group for the largest U.S. carriers, has opposed automatic refunds from the beginning — as it opposes almost any effort to tell airlines how to conduct their business. The trade group argued that airlines should be able to offer to put a stranded traveler on a different flight or give them frequent-flyer points — and pay a refund only if the customer rejected those offers. The trade group declined to comment Wednesday. Refunds are emerging as one of the most controver-

sial provisions in the massive \$105 billion FAA bill. A fight also is likely over a provision to allow 10 more flights per day at busy Reagan National Airport near Washington, D.C.

Consumer groups generally favor the bill, which triples maximum fines for airlines that violate consumer protections, requires airlines to let families sit together at no extra charge, and requires that airline travel vouchers be good for at least five years. It also would write into law another new rule from the Transportation Department, which defines a significant delay — one that could lead to a refund — as three hours for domestic flights and six for international flights.

They didn't get other items they wanted, however, including minimum seat sizes and more authority for the government to regulate airline schedules and fees. The bill includes a number of safety-related measures in response to a series of close calls between planes at the nation's airports. It will allow the FAA to increase the number of air traffic controllers and safety inspectors and to equip more airports with technology designed to prevent collisions between planes on runways. □

## Maternal deaths have fallen to pre-pandemic levels, new U.S. data says



A single room, fully dedicated maternity room in a hospital maternity ward in Mississippi is seen on Oct. 11, 2012.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. deaths of moms around the time of

childbirth have fallen back to pre-pandemic levels, new government data suggests. About 680 women died last

year during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth, according to provisional CDC data. That's down from 817 deaths in 2022 and 1,205 in 2021, when it was the highest level in more than 50 years. COVID-19 seems to be the main explanation for the improvement, said Donna Hoyert, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maternal mortality researcher. The coronavirus can be particularly dangerous to pregnant women. And, in the worst days of the pandemic, burned out physicians may have added to the risk by ignoring pregnant women's worries, experts say. Fewer death certificates

are mentioning COVID-19 as a contributor to maternal deaths. The count was over 400 in 2021 but fewer than 10 last year, Hoyert said.

The agency on Thursday released a report detailing the final maternal mortality data for 2022. It also recently released provisional data for 2023. Those numbers are expected to change after further analysis — the final 2022 number was 11% higher than the provisional one. Still, 2023 is expected to end up down from 2022, Hoyert said.

The CDC counts women who die while pregnant, during childbirth and up to 42 days after birth from conditions considered related to

pregnancy. Excessive bleeding, blood vessel blockages and infections are leading causes. There were about 19 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births in 2023, according to the provisional data. That's in line with rates seen in 2018 and 2019.

But racial disparities remain: The death rate in Black moms is more than two-and-a-half times higher than that of white and Hispanic mothers. "In the last five years we've really not improved on lowering the maternal death rate in our country, so there's still a lot of work to do," said Ashley Stoneburner, the March of Dimes' director of applied research and analytics. □



# Russia proposes UN resolution on banning weapons in space, after vetoing similar UN-Japan draft

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Russia has circulated a U.N. resolution calling on all countries to take urgent action to prevent putting weapons in outer space "for all time" a week after it vetoed a U.S.-Japan resolution to stop an arms race in space.

The Russian draft resolution, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, goes further than the U.S.-Japan proposal, not only calling for efforts to stop weapons from being deployed in outer space but for preventing "the threat or use of force in outer space," also "for all time."

It says this should include deploying weapons "from space against Earth, and from Earth against objects in outer space."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Security Council when he vetoed the U.S.-Japan draft that it didn't go far enough in banning all types of weapons in space.

The vetoed resolution focused solely on weapons of mass destruction including nuclear arms, and made no mention of other weapons in space.

It would have called on all countries not to develop or deploy nuclear arms or other



U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield speaks on Thursday, April 18, 2024, in Tokyo.

weapons of mass destruction in space, as banned under a 1967 international treaty that the U.S. and Russia ratified, and to agree to the need to verify compliance.

Before the U.S.-Japan resolution was put to a vote on April 24, Russia and China proposed an amendment that would call on all countries, especially those with space capabilities, "to prevent for all time the placement of weapons in outer space, and the threat of

use of force in outer spaces." The vote was 7 countries in favor, 7 against, and one abstention and the amendment was defeated because it failed to get the minimum 9 "yes" votes in the 15-member Security Council required for adoption.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the council after the vote that Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space.

"Today's veto begs the question: Why? Why, if you are following the rules, would you not support a resolution that reaffirms them? What could you possibly be hiding," she asked. "It's baffling. And it's a shame."

Putin was responding to White House confirmation in February that Russia has obtained a "troubling" anti-satellite weapon capability, although such a weapon is not operational yet.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador

Vassily Nebenzia said after casting the veto that the U.S.-Japan resolution cherry-picked weapons of mass destruction. He said much of the U.S. and Japan's actions become clear "if we recall that the U.S. and their allies announced some time ago plans to place weapons ... in outer space."

Nebenzia also accused the U.S. of blocking a Russian-Chinese proposal since 2008 for a treaty against putting weapons in outer space.

Thomas-Greenfield accused Russia of undermining global treaties to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, irresponsibly invoking "dangerous nuclear rhetoric," walking away from several of its arms control obligations, and refusing to engage "in substantive discussions around arms control or risk reduction."

Much of the Russian draft resolution is exactly the same as the U.S.-Japan draft, including the language on preventing an arms race in space.

It calls on all countries, especially those with major space capabilities, "to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space." □

Associated Press

## A highway collapse in China kills 36 people and sends more than 20 cars down a steep slope

BEIJING (AP) — A section of a highway collapsed after heavy rains in a mountainous area in southern China, sending cars tumbling down a slope and leaving at least 36 people dead, authorities said Thursday.

The Meizhou city government said that 23 vehicles have been found after a 17.9-meter (58.7-foot) long section of the highway gave way about 2 a.m. on Wednesday. Thirty other people had injuries, none of them life-threatening, a government statement said. The search effort was complicated by steady rain, gravel and soil coming down at the site, posing some risk to the workers, a fire department

official told Chinese media. Rescue teams divided the area into 10 grids and searched with dogs and life-detecting devices, the report said. Excavators and cranes were also brought in to help. The collapse left a barren scar down a steep slope in an otherwise verdant green forested area. Witnesses told local media they heard a loud noise and saw a wide hole open up behind them after driving past the section just before it collapsed.

Video and photos in local media showed smoke and fire at the scene, with a highway guardrail leaning down into the flames. A pile of blackened cars could be seen on

the slope leading down from the highway.

A photo later showed a construction crane lowering a mangled car to the road surface, near three other similarly wrecked vehicles. All appeared to have been burned out.

Over 56 centimeters (22 inches) of rain has fallen in the past four weeks in the county where the roadway collapsed, more than four times as much as last year. Some villages in Meizhou flooded in early April, and the city had seen heavy rain in recent days.

Parts of Guangdong province have seen record rains and flooding in the past two



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, an aerial photo shows rescuers work at the site of a collapsed section of the Meizhou-Dabu Expressway in Meizhou, south China's Guangdong Province, Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

weeks, as well as hail. A tornado killed five people in Guangzhou, the provincial capital, last weekend. Heavy rain and flooding pose a special risk to mountain roadways and highway bridges because of erosion,

debris flows and landslides. China has massively expanded its infrastructure in recent years, adding more than 1 million highway bridges, the world's largest network of high speed trains and scores of new airports. □



# Gangs in Haiti launch fresh attacks, days after a new prime minister is announced

By **DÁNICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Gangs in Haiti laid siege to several neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince, burning homes and exchanging gunfire with police for hours as hundreds fled the violence early Thursday in one of the biggest attacks since Haiti's new prime minister was announced.

The attacks began late Wednesday in neighborhoods including Solino and Delmas 18, 20 and 24 located southwest of the main international airport, which has remained closed for nearly two months amid relentless gang violence.

"The gangs started burning everything in sight," said a man called Néne, who declined to give his last name out of fear. "I was hiding in a corner all night."

He walked with a friend as they carried a dusty red suitcase between them that was stuffed with clothes — the only thing they could save. The clothes belonged to Néne's children, whom he had rushed out of Delmas 18 around dawn during a pause in the fighting.

The neighborhoods that once bustled with traffic and pedestrians were like ghost towns shortly after sunrise, with a heavy silence blanketing the area except for the occasional bleating from a lone goat.



**Residents walk past a burnt car blocking the street as they evacuate the Delmas 22 neighborhood the morning after an attack amid gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, May 2, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

An armored police truck patrolled the streets, rolling past charred vehicles and cinder-block walls where someone had scrawled "Viv Babecue," a reference in Haitian Creole to one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders.

People whose homes were spared in the attack in Delmas 18 and other nearby communities clutched fans, stoves, mattresses and plastic bags filled with clothes as they fled by foot, motorcycle or on colorful small buses known as tap-taps. Others were walking empty-handed, having lost everything.

"There were gunshots left and right," said Paul Pierre, 47, who was walking with his partner in search of shelter

after their house was burned down. They couldn't save any of their belongings.

He said the overnight fighting separated children from their parents and husbands from their wives as people fled in terror: "Everyone is just trying to save themselves."

Martineda, a woman who declined to give her last name out of fear, said she was left homeless after armed gunmen torched her home. She fled with her 4-year-old, whom she said tried to run away when the gunfire erupted late Wednesday.

"I told him, 'Don't be scared. This is life in Haiti,'" she said as she balanced a heavy load of goods on her head includ-

ing butter that she hoped to sell to make some money and find a new home.

When asked to recount what happened overnight, she said: "Gunfire, gunfire, gunfire everywhere! No one slept. Everyone was running."

The attack occurred in an area controlled by Jimmy Chérizier, a former elite police officer known as Barbecue who is leader of a powerful gang federation known as G9 Family and Allies.

He and other gang leaders have been blamed for coordinated attacks that began on Feb. 29 across the capital, Port-au-Prince. Gunmen have burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport

and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

The attacks eventually forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign and led to the creation of a transitional presidential council whose majority unexpectedly announced a new prime minister on Tuesday: Fritz Bélizaire, a former sports minister. The move is threatening to fracture the nine-member council, which was sworn in last week.

As new leaders take charge of the country amid squabbling, Haitians are demanding that they prioritize their safety as gangs remain more powerful and better armed than Haiti's National Police. More than 2,500 people have been killed or injured from January to March of this year, a more than 50% increase compared with the same period last year, according to the U.N. □

Meanwhile, more than 90,000 people have fled Port-au-Prince in just one month as gangs that control an estimated 80% of the capital have increasingly been targeting previously peaceful neighborhoods.

Ernest Aubrey recalled how he moved to Delmas 18 a decade ago. Now, he's leaving home for the first time. "It's too much. We can't resist anymore," he said of the gangs. "They are taking everything we own." □



**NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg talks during his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 29, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — NATO countries say they are deeply concerned by a

campaign of hybrid activities on the military alliance's soil they attribute to Russia,

## NATO members 'deeply concerned' by activities such as sabotage on alliance soil

and which they say constitute a threat to their security.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday in a message posted on the social media platform X that actions including disinformation, sabotage, acts of violence and cyber and electronic interference "will not deter us from supporting Ukraine."

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from the Russian Foreign Ministry on Stoltenberg's statement.

Earlier this year, a U.K.-based think tank said Russia was rebuilding its capacity to destabilize European countries, posing a strategic threat to NATO as its members focus on the war in Ukraine.

"NATO Allies are deeply concerned about recent malign activities on Allied territory, including those resulting in the investigation and charging of multiple individuals in connection with hostile state activity affecting Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania,

Poland, and the United Kingdom," the North Atlantic Council, the principal political decision-making body within NATO, said.

NATO allies condemned Russia's behavior and called on the country "to uphold its international obligations."

"These incidents are part of an intensifying campaign of activities which Russia continues to carry out across the Euro-Atlantic area, including on Alliance territory and through proxies," the statement read. □



# One Love Foundation and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Host Successful 3rd Annual Charity Dog Walk & Run, Raising Over \$22,000

The 3rd Annual 1-Mile and 5-KM Charity Dog Walk/Run, organized by One Love Foundation and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, marked a resounding success, drawing nearly 200 participants and their furry friends on King's Day at Eagle Kids Park. The event raised over \$22,000 for Stimami Sterilisami Foundation's national spay and neuter program.

The morning kicked off with an energizing stretching session led by Zoe Loefstok, founder of Beach Yoga Aruba, setting a positive tone for the day. Participants then took to the paths along the scenic Eagle Beach, walking or running the designated 1-mile and 5-kilometer courses with their furry friends.

The day concluded with prizes and raffles, adding excitement and rewarding participants for their contributions. Prizes were generously provided by Purina & Compra and One Love Foundation for:

- Best Royal Costume: Celebrating a pup and its owner's creative costumes in honor of Dutch culture or royalty.
- Best Rescue Hero Story: Recognizing three heartwarming adoption stories that underscored the positive impact of rescuing animals.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the following key organizers and supporters:

- One Love Foundation: For three consecutive years, they have been the creative force behind hosting the charity walk/run to support this vital cause. This year, they achieved their highest fundraising milestone yet, raising an impressive \$11,000.



Additionally, their contribution of wonderful gift baskets for participants greatly enhanced the experience for all participants.

- Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort: As the initiator and largest funder of the Stimami Sterilisami program, the resort has played a crucial role as a co-host and main organizer of the event. Every year, they match all funds raised by One Love Foundation, and this year was no exception, bringing the grand total raised during this event to \$22,000 thanks to their generous donation. Their ongoing support and pivotal role in managing the logistics and facilitating volunteers were instrumental in ensuring the event's success.

- Elite Productions & Entertainment: Special thanks to Managing Director, Krish Mahtani, for generously providing the sound system, truss, and staff for event support.
- Compra & Purina: For their support and generous donations of Purina gift baskets, AGAME hydration drinks, and Tropic Ale bananas.
- Tara Eco Supplies: For supplying compostable cups and bowls, which were perfectly utilized as individual water stations for the pups,

and Aruba Water bottles for pet owners.

- EMCO: For generously providing volunteer shirts for the event.
- Zoe Loefstok from Beach Yoga Aruba: For leading the pre-event stretching session.
- Damaris Ridderstap from the Lanta 'Riba radio show on Power101.7 FM: For her excellent MC skills and generously donating her time.

Stimami Sterilisami is immensely grateful to Sgt. Peppers Friends, Luna Foundation, Criojio Trappers, Animal Relief Foundation, New Life for Paws, and United Dogs, who brought pups to the event who were ready for adoption. Their participation, along with the overwhelming enthusiasm from attendees who registered to walk a rescue dog, was crucial to the event's success. It was truly heartwarming to witness participants teaming up with volunteers from these organizations, sharing stories of the pups on social media—a gesture that greatly enhances the animals' chances of finding loving, forever homes.

Stimami Sterilisami's program is especially important because spaying

and neutering are vital in effectively and compassionately managing the stray population, which in turn supports rescue organizations and improves the overall health and quality of life for animals. These efforts lead to fewer animals suffering in the streets, higher adoption rates, and a more balanced and compassionate community.

## FUNDASHON STIMAMI STERILISAMI

Founded in 2016 by Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, the Stimami Sterilisami Foundation continues to lead affordable and accessible spay and neuter initiatives, playing a critical role in addressing the population of stray animals in Aruba. This event not only raised significant funds but also heightened awareness of the importance of these efforts.

As a non-profit organization dedicated to animal welfare, Stimami Sterilisami Foundation ensures that 100% of each donation is judiciously utilized to subsidize sterilization costs for the general public and rescue organizations. We maintain transparency and accountability, with our financial records being audited and open to the public. □

For those inspired to support our cause, donations can be made directly to our bank account:

Donation Details:

- Bank: Aruba Bank
- Account Number: 6012630190
- Account Name: FUNDASHON STIMAMI STERILISAMI
- Swift Code: ARUBAWAX
- FUNDASHON STIMAMI STERILISAMI
- www.stimamisterilisami.com
- Aruba Bank 6012630190
- KVK: S1744.0

## Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These “coconut stands” can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) □







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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Aruba!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:  
Emerald Ambassador  
Mrs. Priscilla Mitchell from Annapolis, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Aruba bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree were:

- "The staff at Manchebo".
- Aruba's Beaches.
- "The Sun is just perfect here"
- Aruba's Weather.



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

### How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to



wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to

eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and

southern coast of the island.


The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

### Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □


Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at Patrizias!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)



The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador  
Mr. Charlie Pomaro from New York,

United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Patrizias bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented him with memorable gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his best-loved vacation destination, as his home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's weather.
- "The friendship I made all these years"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

### Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa\* with it. It is said that this tea can also

be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

### Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk,



add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

### Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However,

do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan\* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

\*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

\*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □



## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

**(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.**

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing

atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their

belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like



Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

## Episode CXXIII- 123 - Cultural legacy

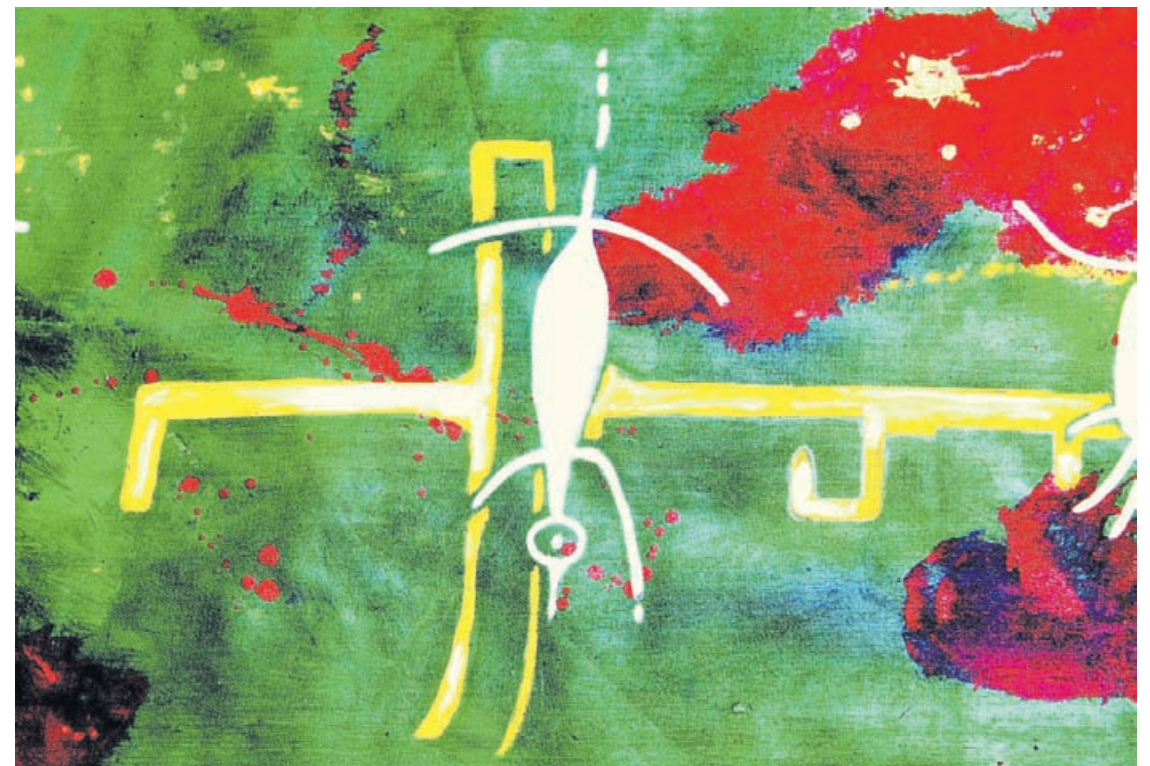


**NOORD — On the American continent, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego we will find many different native cultures that structured their economy in hunting, fishing and agriculture that are deeply relating to the natural survival environment and totally related with their spiritual world.**

Within this context, we know that the vocabulary of all indigenous languages lacks a word that means "religion": their beliefs and spirituality were so intrinsically linked to everything that these indigenous people did, (be it economic, political, artistic, etc.) a term that was not necessary to designate them. Native culture is the result of the raw material available, creativity and the desire to improve on a communal as well as on a personal level. There is no culture common to all indigenous tribes and there

is no common religion or spiritual life. There are no sacred texts or a mythology that all tribes believe in. However, in the particular mythology of each tribe there is always a Great Spirit, a greater god. There is also the belief that the earth's natural resources should be used and that, if possible, something should be given in exchange or return for these. Furthermore, the spiritual leaders of the tribe (mistakenly called by the white "shamans") were believed to be capable of communicating with the spirit world.

Although writing systems existed before the arrival of the colonists, the indigenous people did not put their history, beliefs or wisdom in writing the way of the white man did. Culture was transmitted orally from generation to generation. This has led some



whites to take advantage of the knowledge of these tribes, since before oral tradition could be part of the Intellectual Property Law; some American companies had used medicinal and botanical knowledge of indigenous people to obtain economic benefit by becoming expropriators of tribal authors of the particular discoveries.

For whom the native culture is strange, they will not experience the spirit of a real

vision and will not be able to live the ancestral feeling and connection.

Symbolism, folk rites, and tribal customs, and designs are a native way of life. Thieves of land, language, cultural identity and spiritual values are still going on in to our days. Etnia Nativa is a tour de force of Native Aruban cultural criticism ranging widely across the terrains of the artistic, literary, philosophical, linguistic, historical, ethnographic, and

sociological aspects of interpreting native stories. Etnia Nativa is rife with poignant and original observations and is an essential tour for anyone interested in islands Native American cultures and legacies.

Aruba should speak; the result could free the mind.

Did you say that you love Aruba, its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just that. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etniana03@gmail.com or WhatsApp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation. \*□



**Article by: Etnia Nativa**

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**Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels**





## Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

### Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

### Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting.

These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

### Prikichi

#### (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.



The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

### Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigroneuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their

short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Spotted

1 Social horse

6 Shopping group

centers event

11 Ready for battle

12 Hilo hello

13 Planet

circlers

14 Road reversal

15 Moody music

16 Furious

18 Maze runner

19 Tell tales

20 Cow chow

21 Pallid

23 Monster

25 Brief time

27 Goose egg

28 Spanish snacks

30 Interlace

33 Work wk.'s end

34 Bro's sibling

36 Scottish river

37 Playwright Hellman

39 Pop

40 Bird-related

41 Cake topper

## DOWN

1 Phone

2 Kitchen

3 Some-

thing easy

4 Finger

count

5 Bygone

auto

6 O'Hara of

"The Quiet

Man"

7 Utah ski

resort

A	L	A	S			C	L	O	D	S
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C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T			
				M	A	N	D	O	L	I
				G	A	R	A	G	E	
				L	L	A	N	O		C
				I	M	P		W	H	I
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							T	R	O	M
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				O	R	A	N	G	E	
				W	A	G	E	S		S
							S	C	A	N

Yesterday's answer

8 Some-

thing

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9 Menace

10 Yellow-

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17 Pen

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22 Slangy

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24 Goal

26 Spots for

slots

28 Quiz show

fodder

29 "Chande-

lier" singer

31 Medium

meeting

32 Yard sur-

rounders

33 Wing

parts

35 Slyly

sarcastic

38 Overdue

42 Heel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18				19				20	
21			22		23		24		
		25		26		27			
	28				29		30		31
33				34		35		36	
37			38					39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45						46			

5-3

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-3

## CRYPTOQUOTE

BFGN FR NMT NVFXUST HE

NMT OFVSI HG AJXGTI UZ

QTFQST OJENHED NF UT

HBQFVNJEN. — N.G. TSHFN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST ALWAYS  
BE A-WAGGLE WITH LOVE. — D.H. LAWRENCE

## Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



# Artists from Universal Music Group are heading back to TikTok as new licensing deal reached

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN  
AP Business Writer

Artists from Universal Music Group, which include Drake, Adele, Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish, will be returning to TikTok as the two parties have struck a new licensing agreement following an approximately three-month long dispute.

The two sides said Thursday that they are "now working expeditiously to return music by artists represented by Universal Music Group and songwriters represented



Adele, winner of the award for best pop solo performance for "Easy on Me," poses in the press room at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

by Universal Music Publishing Group to TikTok in due course." Taylor Swift, whose recently released album, "The Tortured Poets Department," has hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, had some of her songs make a return to TikTok last month, but the details of how that exactly happened are unclear, according to Variety. UMG said in January that it had not agreed to terms of a new deal with TikTok, and planned to stop licensing content from the artists it represents on the social media platform that is owned by ByteDance, as well as TikTok Music services.

At the time, UMG had been pressing TikTok on three issues: "appropriate compensation for our artists and songwriters, protecting human artists from the harmful effects of AI, and online

safety for TikTok's users."

TikTok pushed back against the claims by UMG, saying that it had reached 'artist-first' agreements with every other label and publisher.

On Thursday the two sides announced that their new agreement would give significant benefits to UMG's global stable of artists, songwriters and labels and would return their music to TikTok.

"Music is an integral part of the TikTok ecosystem and we are pleased to have found a path forward with Universal Music Group," TikTok CEO Shou Chew said in a statement. "We are committed to working together to drive value, discovery and promotion for all of UMG's amazing artists and songwriters, and deepen their ability to grow, connect and engage with the TikTok community."

Part of the new deal includes

UMG and TikTok working together to find new monetization opportunities. They will also will work together on campaigns supporting UMG's artists across genres and territories globally.

In addition, the companies will put their combined efforts toward ensuring that AI development across the music industry will protect human artistry and payments for artists and songwriters. TikTok will also work with UMG to remove unauthorized AI-generated music from the platform, as well as on tools to improve artist and songwriter attribution. □

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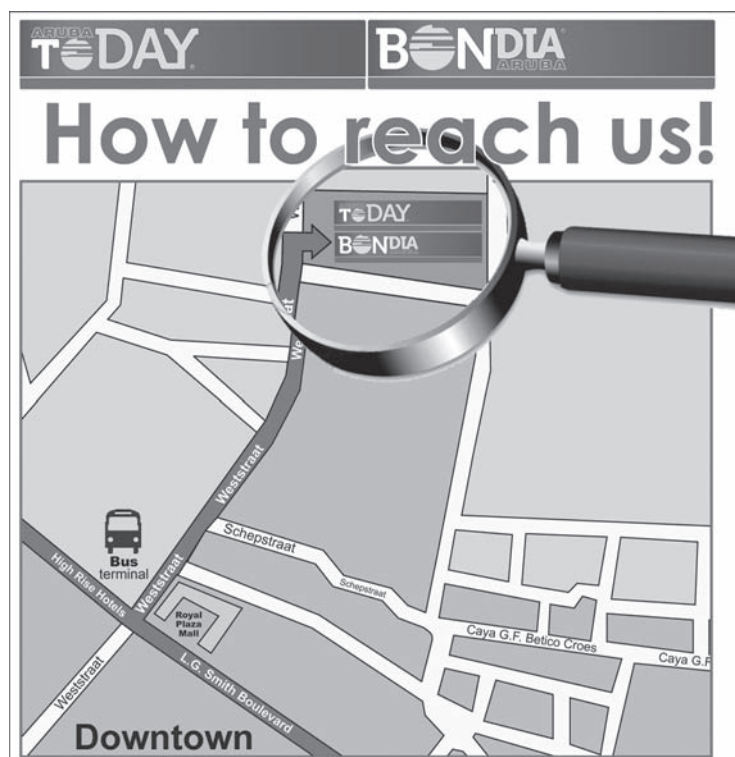
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# AI use by businesses is small but growing rapidly, led by IT sector and firms in Colorado and DC

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
**Associated Press**

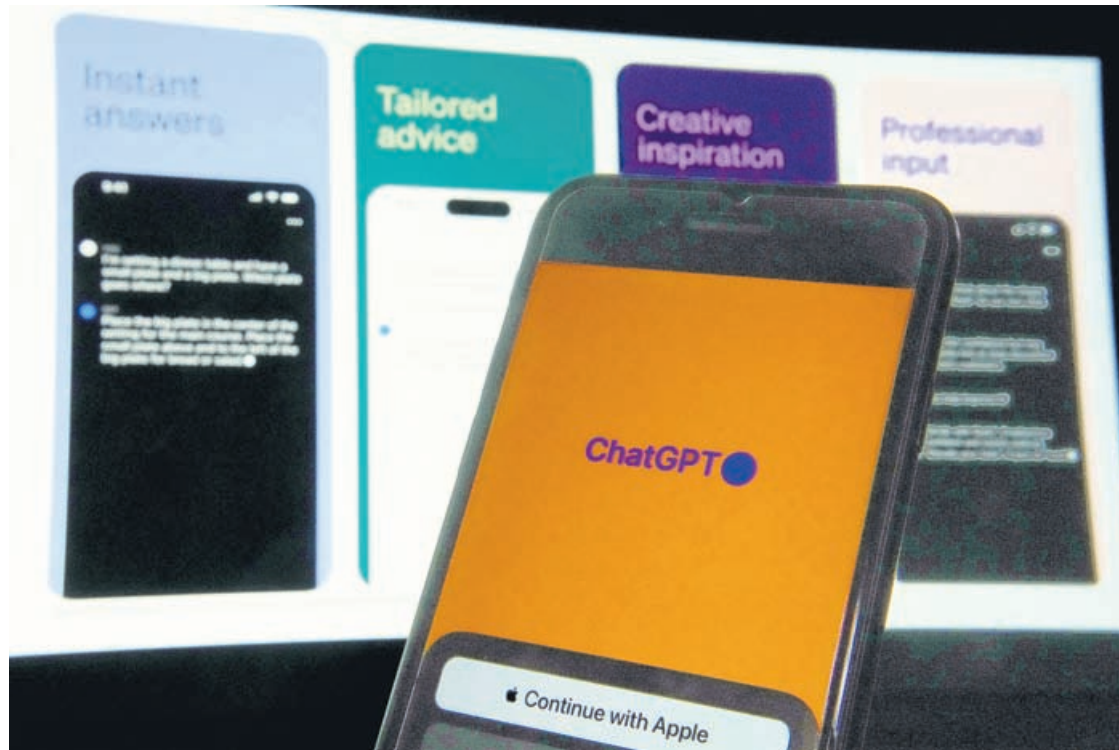
The rate of businesses in the U.S. using AI is still relatively small but growing rapidly, with firms in information technology, and in locations like Colorado and the District of Columbia, leading the way, according to a new paper from U.S. Census Bureau researchers.

Overall use of AI tools by firms in the production of goods and services rose from 3.7% last fall to 5.4% in February, and it is expected to rise in the U.S. to 6.6% by early fall, according to the bureau's Business Trends and Outlook Survey released this spring.

The use of AI by firms is still rather small because many businesses haven't yet seen a need for it, Census Bureau researchers said in an accompanying paper.

"Many small businesses, such as barber shops, nail salons or dry cleaners, may not yet see a use for AI, but this can change with growing business applications of AI," they said. "One potential explanation is the current lack of AI applications to a wide variety of business problems."

Few firms utilizing AI tools reported laying off workers because of it. Instead, many businesses that use



OpenAI's ChatGPT app is displayed on an iPhone in New York, May 18, 2023.

**Associated Press**

AI were expanding compared to other firms. They also were developing new work flows, training staff on the technology and purchasing related services, the researchers said.

The rate of AI use among business sectors varied widely, from 1.4% in construction and agriculture to 18.1% in information technology. Larger firms were more likely to be using the technology than small and midsize firms, but the smallest firms used it more than midsize businesses, accord-

ing to the researchers.

The type of work AI was used for the most included marketing tasks, customer service chatbots, getting computers to understand human languages, text and data analytics and voice recognition.

Erik Paul, the chief operating officer of a software development company in Orlando, has been using AI tools for about a year to generate images for marketing materials, help write compliance paperwork that can be tedious and

compare different versions of documentation for products.

"It has become an integral part of our day," Paul said Thursday. "But the problem is, you can't trust it. You can never blindly copy and paste. Sometimes the context gets thrown off and it throws in erroneous details that aren't helpful or change the tone of the topic you are writing about."

The two places with the nation's highest AI use by firms, Colorado and the

District of Columbia, had adoption rates of 7.4% and 7.2%, respectively. Not far behind those states were Florida, Delaware, California and Washington State. Mississippi had the smallest AI use with 1.7% of firms.

The survey showed some ambivalence among firms about whether they will adopt AI to their businesses in the near future or continue using it. Two-thirds of firms not yet using AI reported that they expect to remain non-users, and 14% of firms not yet using the technology were unsure if they would do so down the road.

Around 14% of current users reported that they didn't expect to continue utilizing AI in the near future, "potentially indicating some degree of ongoing experimentation or temporary use that may result in de-adoption," the researchers said.

The statistical agency plans to continue tracking AI use by businesses, Ron Jarmin, the Census Bureau's deputy director, said Thursday.

"For the first time that I know of, we are in a place to measure the diffusion of a general-purpose technology through the economy to learn what impact it has," Jarmin said. □

## Companies shift profits into record dividends, but show more caution on stock buybacks



The Federal Reserve building on May 22, 2020, in Washington.

**Associated Press**

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Companies continued rewarding

investors with healthy dividends in 2023 even as they tread more cautiously with returning profits through stock buybacks.

Dividends hit a record \$1.66 trillion globally last year, while stock buybacks eased. Investors can likely expect more dividend growth through 2024, according to a recent report from Janus Henderson. At the same time, companies face more uncertainty on economic growth, inflation and interest rates, leaving them to find a better balance of paying off debt and buying back stock.

The rare decline for stock

buybacks comes amid high interest rates pressuring corporate borrowing. Buyback amounts still remain far higher than before the pandemic, but the path ahead is unclear with interest rates expected to remain higher for longer. The technology, healthcare and financial sectors had the biggest reductions in buybacks in 2023. U.S. companies in those sectors accounted for a large portion of the pullback. While U.S. companies remained the biggest buyers of their own stock, they also had the biggest reduction overall, cutting buybacks by 17%.

"It is all about companies finding the appropriate balance between capital expenditure, their financing needs and shareholder returns via dividends, buybacks or both," said Ben Lofthouse, head of global equity income at Janus Henderson, in a report. Companies are making strong profits as consumers keep spending on goods and services. Net profit margins for the S&P 500 were just under 10.8% in 2023. That's down slightly from recent years but still allowing companies to stockpile cash while also keeping investors happy with healthy dividends. □



# Tiger Woods gets special exemption to U.S. Open at Pinehurst

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods accepted a special exemption for the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2, the first time the three-time champion has needed an exemption to play.

Woods has been exempt for every U.S. Open since he first played in 1995 as the reigning U.S. Amateur champion. His five-year exemption from winning the 2019 Masters expired last year.

The exemption was expected and likely to be the first of many. The USGA is particular about who is exempt from qualifying, last awarding one in 2021 to Phil Mickelson.

Jack Nicklaus, with four U.S. Open titles among his 18 professional majors, received a record eight special exemptions, including five in a row until he stopped playing the U.S. Open after 2000 at Pebble Beach.

Arnold Palmer received five U.S. Open exemptions, the last one in 1994 when he returned to Oakmont near his hometown for a tearful farewell.

Woods won the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by 15 shots, a record margin of victory for any major champion. He added another title in 2002 at Bethpage Black in New York, and he famously won his third U.S. Open at Tor-



Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 14th hole during second round at the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club Friday, April 12, 2024, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

rey Pines in 2008 just a week before he had reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

"The U.S. Open, our national championship, is a truly special event for our game and one that has helped define my career," Woods said in a statement. "I'm honored to receive this exemption and could not be more excited for the opportunity to compete in this year's U.S. Open, especially at Pinehurst, a venue that means so much to the game."

The U.S. Open is June 13-16

at Pinehurst No. 2, which is staging the Open for the fourth time. Woods tied for third, two shots behind the late Payne Stewart, in 1999. He was runner-up at Pinehurst in 2005 to Michael Campbell. He missed the most recent Open at Pinehurst in 2014 while recovering from the first of what would be four back surgeries.

Woods has a long history with the USGA as the only player to win the U.S. Junior Amateur three straight times, followed by the U.S. Amateur

three straight times. His nine USGA championships are matched only by amateur great Bobby Jones.

Woods earlier this year was selected to receive the Bob Jones Award, the highest honor from the USGA.

"The story of the U.S. Open could not be written without Tiger Woods," said John Bodenhamer, the USGA's chief championships officer. "From his 15-stroke victory at Pebble Beach in 2000 to his inspiring win on a broken leg at Torrey Pines in 2008, this

championship is simply better when Tiger is in the field, and his accomplishments in the game undoubtedly made this an easy decision for our special exemption committee." It will be the first time Woods competes in the U.S. Open since Winged Foot in 2020, held in September before no fans because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He crashed his car in Los Angeles and badly injured his right leg and ankle in February 2021, causing him to miss the U.S. Open's return to Torrey Pines. While he returned to competition a year later, the U.S. Open at Brookline in 2022 was the only major he didn't play. A year ago, Woods had surgery to fuse his right ankle after the Masters and did not play the rest of the year, missing the U.S. Open's debut at Los Angeles Country Club.

Woods last contended at the U.S. Open in 2010 at Pebble Beach, where he shot 66 in the third round but then closed with a 75 and tied for fourth. He is expected to play in the PGA Championship in two weeks at Valhalla, where he won in 2000 on his way to capturing all four majors consecutively. Woods said during a round of appearances on NBC shows earlier this week to promote his clothing line that his plan was to play the remaining three majors. □

# Promoter stands by Ryan Garcia after a report he tested positive for a banned substance

By MARK ANDERSON  
AP Sports Writer

Golden Boy Promotions said in a statement Thursday that it stands by Ryan Garcia after a report that he had tested positive for a banned substance before his dominant victory over Devin Haney last month in New York.

"Ryan has put out multiple statements denying knowingly using any banned substances — and we believe him," the statement read. "We are working with his team to determine how this finding came to be and will address this further once we conclude that process." ESPN reported that Garcia tested positive for the

performance-enhancing substance Ostarine the day before and the day of the April 20 fight, citing a Voluntary Anti-Doping Association letter. Ostarine is a selective androgen receptor modulator, and its use can stimulate muscle growth. It is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The results of the test weren't known until later.

VADA did not immediately respond Thursday to a request for comment. The organization oversees testing for performance-enhancing drugs in boxing and mixed-martial arts. Athletes who use VADA agree to unannounced tests within eight weeks of a scheduled

fight. The World Anti-Doping Agency conducts the tests on behalf of VADA.

Garcia defeated Haney, a former amateur rival, by majority decision in New York. Garcia knocked Haney down three times and handed the WBC super lightweight champion his first loss but did not win the title because he was over the weight limit.

Garcia emphatically denied that he broke the rules in a video posted on X.

"I've never taken a steroid in my life," Garcia said. "I don't even know where to get steroids. At the end of the day, I barely take supplements."

"We learned about this situ-



Ryan Garcia, right, knocks down Devin Haney during the 10th round of a super lightweight boxing match early Sunday, April 21, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

ation not too long ago and it's unfortunate Ryan cheated and disrespected both the fans and the sport of boxing by fighting dirty and breaking positive not once, but twice," Haney posted

on his Instagram story. "I've always been an advocate for clean fighting and this is an example of such. Ryan owes the fans an apology, and by his recent tweet he still thinks this is a joke." □





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## NHL players are refining the art of the bank shot via ricochet off the masks of the goaltenders

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

Off the goaltender's mask, off a defenseman's back, nothing but net. Well, at least in the net.

That is how Colorado's Casey Mittelstadt got his first goal of the NHL playoffs this year, and it is not the only one. Several players have scored by ricocheting the puck in off a goalie's head, including Dallas' Evgenii Dadonov against Vegas earlier this week.

It is an art that is becoming more and more refined as skaters find ways to score against the best netminders in the world. Sniping goals in from near-impossible angles — Mario Lemieux was remarkable at it — is now common and even expected for NHL forwards. Maybe banking shots in off a goalie's mask was the inevitable next step in a league that saw its first "Michigan" — the lacrosse-style goal done from behind the net — only in 2019.



Colorado Avalanche left wing Artturi Lehkonen (62) celebrates the goal by Casey Mittelstadt (37) on Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck (37) during the third period in Game 1 of an NHL Hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sunday, April 21, 2024.

Associated Press

"Some guys seem to be really good at it," New York Rangers forward Jimmy Vesey said. "It seems like some guys are starting to perfect it." Goalies say they have learned to expect it, or at least not get salty about pucks intentionally directed at their noggins, a notable concern in hockey as the league has taken steps to

cut down on concussions and other head injuries. "You've got to be prepared for anything," Washington's Charlie Lindgren said. "You see shooters are so good now where all they need is the smallest little corner." Mittelstadt's goal, batted out of the air, clanked off the front of the mask of Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck,

one of the league's best goalies, off Jets defenseman Brenden Dillon and into the net.

"Interesting way," he said. "I haven't scored very many like that in my life, but (I will) definitely take it, for sure." After Dadonov shot from a bad angle off the mask of the Golden Knights' Logan Thompson in the Stars' Game 4 victory, Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger theorized that half the goals this time of year are about just getting the puck on net and hoping you get a good bounce.

"Just throw pucks at the net and you're going to score dirty goals like that in the playoffs," said Oettinger, who also made two big saves with his mask in winning Game 5. Colorado counterpart Alexander Georgiev speaks for his masked brethren when he says he doesn't mind when opponents take aim for the back of his helmet in games. That is just part of the deal.

If Avalanche players do it in practice? Not so cool.

"Guys are really good here with trying to avoid the mask in practice, at least," Georgiev said. "When it's the game, it's part of the game. It doesn't bother me. The equipment is pretty good, luckily."

Georgiev, whose team is pursuing its second championship in three years, has tried different mask brands over the years, settling on a commonly used heavier Bauer model with "no complaints" when it comes to safety.

"It works great," he said. "I feel the one I'm using now is very solid and blocks of the shots pretty good. You don't feel the impact that much." Dallas' Jason Robertson tried to beat Thompson with a shot off his mask in Game 1 of their series. In hindsight, he wishes he would have tried something different. That's because it's so rare to score that way. □